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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

NORTH KOREAN SANITATION
MEASURES TO COMBAT GERM WARFARE

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

According to the North Korean newspapers, in the spring of 1952, the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea intensified the sanitation measures among its people "to smash the germ atrocities committed by the enemy." This was done by antiepidemic campaigns.

The Military Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued Order No 237, on 19 February 1952, and Order No 65, on 20 February 1952, setting forth antiepidemic measures and launching the spring antiepidemic campaign among both civilians and military personnel. These orders directed: the mobilization of the people into antiepidemic committees to exterminate germs and pests; the organization of antiepidemic units to supervise inoculation; disinfection work, hospitalization, isolation, and treatment; and the enforcement of new sanitary regulations, such as periodic bathing, cleaning of toilets, and covering of wells.

Subsequently, in April 1952, the Military Committee issued Order No 263 to continue the spring campaign into the summer. (1, 2, 3)

The following shows what has been done and is being done in various places under these orders:

P'yongan-pukto

In P'yongan-pukto, the provincial Emergency Antiepidemic Committee met and discussed measures for epidemic prevention. The committee decided to: destroy all germ-carrying insects; inoculate residents and issue certificates to persons who were inoculated; fix the 2d, 7th, 12th, 17th, 22d, and 27th of each month as sanitation days for the cleaning of houses; and cover public wells. The cost of this program would be borne the district committees concerned.

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P'yongan-namdo

In Wasan-ni, Imwon-myon, Taedong-gun, P'yongan-namdo, Comrade Pang Pong-ik, chief of the Democracy Propaganda Office (Minju Chonsongsil Chang), has held sanitation discussion meetings to increase sanitation information of the villagers, and to give systematic explanation of origins, diagnoses, methods of cure and prevention of all kinds of contagious diseases which can easily become epidemic in summer. The villagers have been cleaning filthy pig pens and stables which draw flies and insects. They have put up over 30 new toilets far from the houses. The 2d, 12th, and 22d of every month have been prescribed as sanitation days, and at each household articles are being washed with disinfectant soap and clothing is sterilized. Efforts are being made to catch rats and to see that everyone drinks boiled water. As the people's conception of sanitation is heightened, their voluntary participation in the prevention work is increased.(3)

Hwanghae-do

In Kaesong the people have been urged to strengthen the Epidemic Prevention Committee and to clean their premises daily. The Kaesong people have been urged not to drink unpurified cold water, especially in the summer; to exterminate germ-carrying flies, bedbugs, and fleas; to be inoculated; and to sterilize bed clothes and personal clothing from time to time.(4)

Each village unit in Koksang-gun, Hwanghae-do, has fixed as regular cleaning days the 2d, 7th, 12th, 17th, 22d, and 27th of each month to clean toilets, gutters, and the outside and inside of dwellings. Spring water and well water are being kept clean and covers are being made for the wells. The inspectors are enforcing the cleaning and are making daily house-to-house visits to inspect sickness.

The people of Sinon-ni, Pongmyong-myon, who previously drank river water, dug 30 new wells and made covers for them.

In Unjung-myon, disinfection stations were increased to over 19.(5)

The members of the youth group of the People's School in a western village started a rat-catching contest among students to catch more than 15 rats each.(3)

Kangwon-do

The people's group in each village of Kosong-gun, Kangwon-do, have set up sanitation discussion meetings. These meetings have spread sanitation information. All the people have been called upon to keep the gutters and toilets clean. They are prohibited from drinking unboiled water in summer, forced to carry out a general cleaning more than 6 times a month and to boil clothing more than three times a month. Mobile quarantine stations are being set up at important points on busy highways to disinfect and distribute rat poison.(5)

Antiepidemic Work in Factories

This antiepidemic campaign is also being carried on in factories. The antiepidemic committee in the factory managed by No Chang-chol organized teams and set up disinfection stations for each branch factory. The teams enforced cleanup days twice a week and operated public baths for employees to take baths once every 5 days. They also began to trap rats. The factory committee obtained quantities of disinfectants and preventive medicines and carried out inoculations for cholera and typhus.(6)

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The factory under the management of Kwon Nyong-han compelled not only their employees but also their families to take daily baths. No exceptions were made.(5)

SOURCES

1. P'yongyang, Nodong Sinmun, 27 Apr 52
2. P'yongyang, Minju Choson, 29 Feb 52
3. [place of publication unknown], P'yongbuk Ilbo, 2 Mar 52
4. Kaesong Sinmun, 27 May 52
5. P'yongyang, Nodong Sinmun, 20 May 52
6. Ibid., 7 Apr 52

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